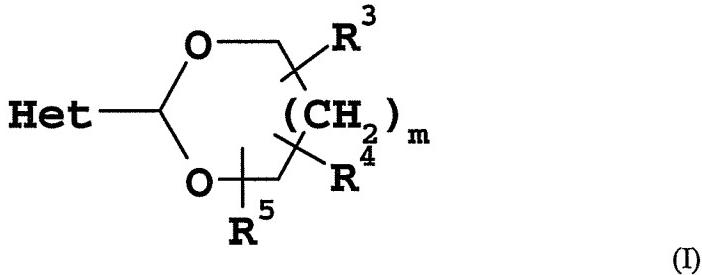
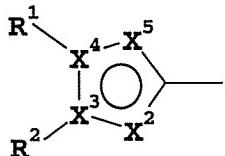


## Amendment of the Claims

1. (currently amended) A compound of formula (I):



wherein:-



Het is a five heteroaromatic ring of the formula

in which R<sup>1</sup> is optionally substituted aryl, and R<sup>2</sup> is 4-pyridyl; wherein aryl is selected from: phenyl and naphthyl; and aryl optional substitution is with one or more substituents-substituents selected from: acyl, acylamino, alkoxy, alkoxycarbonyl, alkyleneedioxy, alkylsulphinyl, alkylsulphonyl, alkylthio, aroyl, aroylamino, aryl, arylalkyloxy, arylalkyloxycarbonyl, arylalkylthio, aryloxy, aryloxycarbonyl, arylsulphinyl, arylsulphonyl, arylthio, carboxy, cyano, halo, ~~heteroaryl~~, ~~heteroaryl~~, ~~heteroarylalkyloxy~~, ~~heteroareylamino~~, ~~heteroareyloxy~~, hydroxy, nitro, trifluoromethyl, Y<sup>3</sup>Y<sup>4</sup>N-, Y<sup>3</sup>Y<sup>4</sup>NCO-, Y<sup>3</sup>Y<sup>4</sup>NSO<sub>2</sub>-, Y<sup>3</sup>Y<sup>4</sup>N-C<sub>2-6</sub>alkylene-Z<sup>1</sup>- (where Z<sup>1</sup> is O, NR<sup>5</sup> or S(O)<sub>n</sub>), alkylC(=O)-Y<sup>3</sup>N-, alkylSO<sub>2</sub>-Y<sup>3</sup>N- or alkyl optionally substituted with aryl, ~~heteroaryl~~, hydroxy, or Y<sup>3</sup>Y<sup>4</sup>N-;

X<sup>2</sup> is CH, X<sup>3</sup> is C, X<sup>4</sup> is N and X<sup>5</sup> is N;

R<sup>3</sup> represents a group -L<sup>1</sup>-R<sup>6</sup>;

R<sup>4</sup> represents hydrogen, alkyl or hydroxyalkyl; or

R<sup>3</sup> and R<sup>4</sup>, when attached to the same carbon atom, may form with the said carbon atom a cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl or a group C=CH<sub>2</sub>;

R<sup>5</sup> represents hydrogen or alkyl;

R<sup>6</sup> is hydrogen, alkyl, azido, hydroxy, alkoxy, aryl, arylalkyloxy, aryloxy, carboxy, an acid bioisostere selected from the group consisting of C(=O)NHOH, -C(=O)-CH<sub>2</sub>OH, -C(=O)-CH<sub>2</sub>SH, C(=O)NH-CN,

sulpho, phosphono, alkylsulphonylcarbamoyl, ~~tetrazolyl~~, arylsulphonylcarbamoyl, N methoxycarbamoyl, or ~~3~~ hydroxy-3-cyclobutene-1,2-dione, ~~3,5-dioxo 1,2,4-oxadiazolidinyl~~, ~~3~~ hydroxyisoxazolyl and ~~3~~ hydroxy-1-methylpyrazolyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkyloxy, nitro, -NY<sup>1</sup>Y<sup>2</sup>, -N(R<sup>7</sup>)-C(=Z)-R<sup>8</sup>, -N(R<sup>7</sup>)-C(=Z)-L<sup>2</sup>-R<sup>9</sup>, -NH-C(=Z)-NH-R<sup>8</sup>, -NH-C(=Z)-NH-L<sup>2</sup>-R<sup>9</sup>, -N(R<sup>7</sup>)-SO<sub>2</sub>-R<sup>8</sup>, -N(R<sup>7</sup>)-SO<sub>2</sub>-L<sup>2</sup>-R<sup>9</sup>, -S(O)<sub>n</sub>R<sup>10</sup>, -C(=Z)-NY<sup>1</sup>Y<sup>2</sup> or -C(=Z)-OR<sup>10</sup>;

R<sup>7</sup> is hydrogen, alkyl, aryl, arylalkyl, or cycloalkyl, heteroaryl, heteroaryalkyl, or heterocycloalkyl; R<sup>8</sup> is alkyl, alkoxy, aryl, arylalkyloxy, or cycloalkyl, heteroaryl, heteroaryalkyloxy or heterocycloalkyl; R<sup>9</sup> is alkoxy, aryl, arylalkyloxy, arylalkyloxycarbonylamino, carboxy, an acid bioisostere selected from the group consisting of C(=O) NHOH, -C(=O)-CH<sub>2</sub>OH, -C(=O)-CH<sub>2</sub>SH, C(=O) NH-CN, sulpho, phosphono, alkylsulphonylcarbamoyl, ~~tetrazolyl~~, arylsulphonylcarbamoyl, heteroarylsulphonylcarbamoyl, N methoxycarbamoyl, 3 hydroxy-3-cyclobutene-1,2-dione, ~~3,5-dioxo 1,2,4-oxadiazolidinyl~~, ~~3~~ hydroxyisoxazolyl and ~~3~~ hydroxy-1-methylpyrazolyl, cycloalkyl, cyano, halo, heteroaryl, heteroaryalkoxy, heterocycloalkyl, hydroxy or -NY<sup>3</sup>Y<sup>4</sup>;

R<sup>10</sup> is alkyl, aryl, arylalkyl, or cycloalkyl, heteroaryl, heteroaryalkyl, or heterocycloalkyl;

L<sup>1</sup> represents a direct bond or a straight- or branched-chain alkylene linkage containing from 1 to 6 carbon atoms and optionally substituted by halogen, hydroxy, alkoxy or oxo;

L<sup>2</sup> is a straight- or branched-chain alkylene linkage containing from 1 to 6 carbon atoms;

Y<sup>1</sup> and Y<sup>2</sup> are independently hydrogen, alkenyl, alkynyl, aryl, cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, heteroaryl or alkyl optionally substituted by alkoxy, aryl, cyano, cycloalkyl, heteroaryl, heterocycloalkyl, hydroxy, oxo, -CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>7</sup>, -CONY<sup>3</sup>Y<sup>4</sup> or -NY<sup>3</sup>Y<sup>4</sup>, or the group NY<sup>1</sup>Y<sup>2</sup> may form a 5-7 membered cyclic amine which (i) may be optionally substituted with one or more substituents selected from alkoxy, carboxamide, carboxy, hydroxy, oxo (or a 5, 6, or 7 membered cyclic acetal derivative thereof), alkyl, aryl, arylalkyl, cycloalkyl, heteroaryl, heteroaryalkyl, or heterocycloalkyl or alkyl substituted by carboxy, carboxamide or hydroxy (ii) may also contain a further heteroatom selected from O, S, SO<sub>2</sub> or NY<sup>5</sup> and (iii) may also be fused to additional aryl, heteroaryl, heterocycloalkyl or cycloalkyl rings to form a bicyclic or tricyclic ring system;

Y<sup>3</sup> and Y<sup>4</sup> are independently hydrogen, alkenyl, alkyl, alkynyl, aryl, arylalkyl, or cycloalkyl, heteroaryl or heteroaryalkyl, or the group NY<sup>3</sup>Y<sup>4</sup> may form a 5-7 membered cyclic amine as defined for NY<sup>1</sup>Y<sup>2</sup> above;

Y<sup>5</sup> is hydrogen, alkyl, aryl, arylalkyl, -C(=Z)R<sup>10</sup>, -C(=Z)OR<sup>10</sup> or -SO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>10</sup>;

Z is an oxygen or sulphur atom;

m is an integer 1; and

n is zero or an integer 1 or 2;

or an N-oxide thereof, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, or.

2. (cancelled)

3. (cancelled)

4. (cancelled)

5. (cancelled)

6. (cancelled)

7. (cancelled)

8. (cancelled)

9. (cancelled)

10. (cancelled)

11. (previously presented) A compound according to Claim 1 in which R<sup>3</sup> and R<sup>4</sup> are both C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl groups.

12. (previously presented) A compound according to Claim 1 in which R<sup>3</sup> is -C(=O)-NY<sup>1</sup>Y<sup>2</sup> (where Y<sup>1</sup> and Y<sup>2</sup> are as defined in Claim 1) and R<sup>4</sup> is C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl.

13. (previously presented) A compound according to Claim 12 in which Y<sup>1</sup> is hydrogen and Y<sup>2</sup> is alkyl or cycloalkyl.

14. (cancelled)

15. (previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to Claim 1 together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or excipient.

16-20 (cancelled)